

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application of which Claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 21 and 28 are independent. Claims 14-28 are allowed and Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 3 and 9 are cancelled in favor of respective base Claims 1 and 7 in the foregoing claim amendments, and new Claims 29 and 30 present original Claims 2 and 8 rewritten in independent form.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to show that the combined set has a predefined number of matches as claimed in Claim 1 and other claims. Fig. 2 is now amended to address this objection. In particular, Fig. 2 is now amended to indicate a predefined number of matches in the final list 48. This is consistent with the title "N-best list" as shown in original Fig. 2 and discussed at least on Specification page 9, lines 10-14 and page 12, lines 18-26 as originally filed. The term "N-best" with respect to list 48 is interpreted to mean a predefined number N size list 48. Acceptance of the attached replacement drawing sheet of Fig. 2 is respectfully requested.

The title has been objected as not being sufficiently descriptive of the invention. The foregoing amendment to the Specification amends the title to read as suggested by the Examiner on page 3, paragraph 3 of the Office Action at hand. In particular, the new title should read "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMBINING SUBWORD RECOGNITION AND WHOLE WORD RECOGNITION OF A SPOKEN INPUT". Acceptance is respectfully requested.

The Abstract has been objected to as lacking sufficient description of the disclosure and claimed subject matter. The foregoing amendments to the Abstract address this objection and adds mention of:

- a. the combined set having a predefined number of matches; and
- b. the subword decoder sorting the source set of reference patterns based on a closeness of each reference pattern to correctly matching the input pattern based on generated pattern comparisons.

Such follows the suggestion made on page 3, paragraph 4 of the Office Action at hand. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims. Each claim is said to be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of its base claim. Thus new Claim 29 effectively presents Claim 2 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim (original Claim 1). Claim 1 is now amended to include the subject matter of Claim 3, and Claim 3 cancelled in favor of amended Claim 1. New Claim 30 effectively presents Claim 8 rewritten to include all the limitations of its base claim (original Claim 7). And Claim 7 is now amended to include the subject matter of Claim 9, with Claim 9 now cancelled in favor of amended Claim 7. With each of these amendments, Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 have effectively been rewritten to include all the limitations of its base claim. Accordingly, amended Claims 1 and 7 and new Claims 29 and 30 are believed to be allowable over the prior art in accordance with page 4, paragraph 5 of the Office Action at hand. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-7 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanazawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,689). Further, Claims 4, 10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kanazawa et al. in view of Meador III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,425).

As now amended base Claims 1, 7 and 13 recite a combined set having a predefined number of hypothetical matches and the combined set of hypothetical matches is an ordered list comprising "a highest ranking hypothetical match in the second set of hypothetical matches followed by an ordered set of hypothetical matches based on the first set of hypothetical matches". The Office Action at hand on page 10, paragraph 19 concedes that "No particular reference provides relevant, objective evidence to make the claimed systems or method obvious by changing the closest prior art (Kanazawa, Meador) way of forming a combined list of recognition results to include the claimed combined set having ordered word recognition results followed by ordered subword recognition results, particularly when the combined set has a predefined number of results." Thus, base Claims 1, 7 and 13 as now amended are novel and non-obvious over the cited references. Claims 2-6 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 8-12 depend

from Claim 7. Thus these claims are novel and non-obvious over the cited references for the same reason as respective base Claims 1 and 7. As such the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 cannot stand. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims (Claims 14-28) are said to be allowed. See page 9, paragraph 17 of the Office Action at hand.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all now pending claims (Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-30) are in condition for allowance such that the application can be moved to issuance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet of Fig. 2. In Fig. 2 the previously omitted indication of predefined number of matches has been added. Also attached is a mark up of Fig. 2 showing the added elements in red.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Marked-Up Drawing

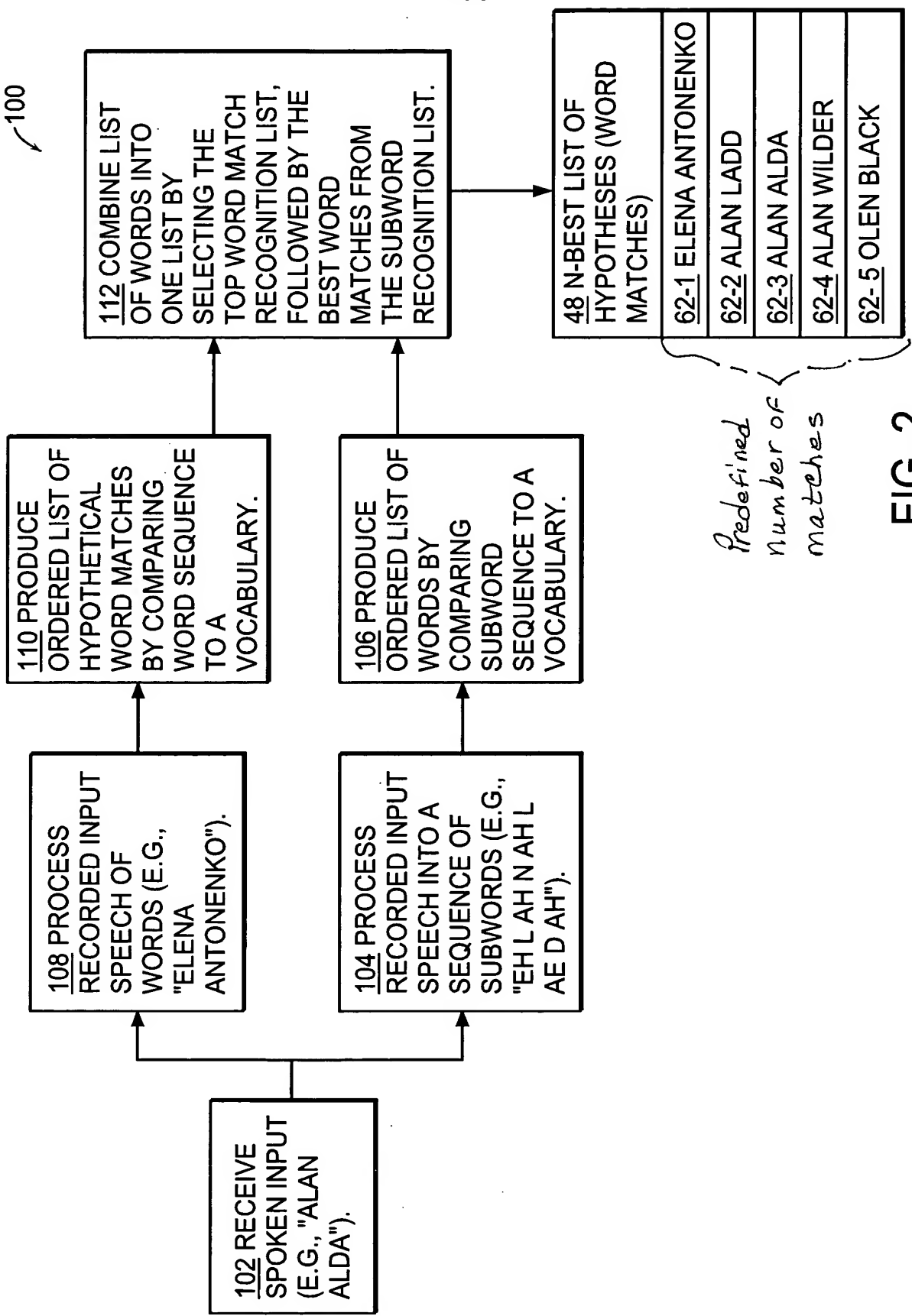


FIG. 2